

JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY CABINET

**403 Wapping Street, Frankfort, Kentucky
Lt. Gov. Stephen B. Pence, Secretary**

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MEDIA RELEASE

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John Rees Appointed Commissioner of Department of Corrections

FRANKFORT, KY - Governor Ernie Fletcher and Lt. Gov. Stephen B. Pence, Secretary of the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, today announced that John Rees has been appointed commissioner of the Department of Corrections. Most recently Rees was self-employed as a consultant providing services for corrections and criminal justice administration.

“John Rees has the experience and expertise to manage the Department of Corrections through this time of tight budgets and ever increasing inmate population,” stated Lt. Gov. Pence. “He is a veteran corrections official who knows what needs to be accomplished.”

In 1969 Rees began his career in corrections at the Kentucky State Reformatory as an assistant casework supervisor. Three years later, he was promoted to the position of director of the Division of Special Institutions with the former Kentucky Bureau of Corrections. He served in several capacities within the Kentucky Corrections system until 1976 when he left the state to work for the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. He returned to Kentucky in 1980 to become warden of the Kentucky State Reformatory, a position he held for six years. From 1986 to 1998, Rees worked for Corrections Corporation of America, a private correctional management firm. He managed facilities in New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana and Tennessee before becoming vice president of business development.

Rees received a bachelor's degree in Sociology and Political Science from the University of Kentucky and a master's degree in Criminology and Correctional Administration from Florida State University.

“I look forward to working with this administration,” said Rees. “My years in corrections certainly will help me as I work with the staff to find efficiencies while providing the necessary programs for inmates and ensuring the safety of our citizens and staff.”

Rees has maintained professional memberships with state and national correctional associations. In 2003 he was named a Certified Corrections Executive by the American Correctional Association. In addition he has taught corrections programs at several universities, the National Institute of Corrections and the National Institute of Justice.

NOTE: For photo contact Lisa Lamb, Dept. of Corrections, 502-564-4726

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